

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to discuss an international organization funded by this bill—the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As many of my colleagues know, the OECD was founded in 1961 as a successor to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Since its inception, the OECD has never strayed too far from its core missions: to see that its member nations achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment, to contribute to sound economic expansion in Member as well as non-member nations, and to contribute to the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis.

The OECD continues to do important economic work. For example, it is working on the Asian economic crisis. It is making an effort to help Russia get on the right economic track. The OECD is also the organization that developed the Anti-Bribery Convention now pending before Congress. OECD economic studies are considered crucial to understanding the functioning of the global economy. It is doing cutting edge work on regulatory and tax reform. And the OECD is taking the lead on understanding the impact that electronic commerce will have on global economic issues. In short, the OECD is as important today to its member nations as it was at its inception.

Nonetheless, the OECD understands that in today's tough budgetary environment, they need to find ways to do more with less. The OECD is reforming on its own initiative. In fact, I believe it has shown real leadership in this area. As its internal reforms continue, I believe we should take a close look at how these reforms are being implemented, and perhaps even hold it up as example for other international organizations.

I would also like to draw the Chairman's attention to the work of the OECD Development Center. Over the years, the OECD Development Center has served as a bridge between OECD nations and emerging economies around the world. The Center's reputation as an "honest broker," along with its commitment to promoting market-opening reforms, makes it an excellent resource to policy makers in developed nations and developing countries alike.

Mr. Chairman, the OECD and the OECD Development Center are important to U.S. international economic interests. I am hopeful that their important work will continue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, last night, during consideration of H.R. 4276, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1999, on roll call vote 398, the Hefley amendment, I was recorded as voting "aye" but intended to vote "no."

On May 28, President Clinton issued Executive Order (13083) intending to provide a uniform policy for the federal government to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The order amended an Executive Order signed in 1969 by President Richard Nixon which prohibited discrimination in federal employment "because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin * * *." The new order does not create any new enforcement rights for discrimination based on sexual orientation since such enforcement rights must be passed by the Congress. The Hefley amendment would have prohibited any federal funds from being used to implement or enforce Executive Order 13803.

I have always strenuously opposed discrimination of any kind. I believe that employment opportunities should be given on the basis of ability and therefore feel that one's sexual orientation should play no part in hiring, promotion or firing decisions. Accordingly, I intended to vote against the Hefley amendment.

GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATION IN
GERMANY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my support to the House Resolution that expresses the sense of Congress with respect to government discrimination in Germany based on religion or belief, particularly against United States citizens.

Government discrimination against members of minority groups, including American citizens, solely because of their religious beliefs, is occurring in Germany at the federal, state and local level. All acts have been documented in the last five State Department Human Rights Reports, United Nations Reports, and the most recent reports of the State Department Advisory Committee on Human Rights. Despite attempts of our State Department to address the issue with the German government, it is only getting worse.

Because of a strong grass roots movement in this country by people of faith who are committed to ending religious persecution, Congress is taking a strong step toward helping to end international religious persecution. The right for someone to practice their faith should not be infringed by government actions. Our country was founded on this principle, and we should stand up for this principle when we deal with other countries.

Religious persecution is morally unacceptable. Government discrimination based on religious belief, especially when it impacts Amer-

ican citizens, should not be allowed to persist without comment. I support this resolution offered by Representative MATT SALMON and I urge other Members to do the same.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM AULL, III

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to pay tribute to William (Bill) Aull, III, a good friend and outstanding attorney, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

A native of Lexington, MO, Aull graduated from Westminster College in Fulton, MO, and continued his education at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he received his Juris Doctorate degree. Bill began his law profession as the Prosecuting Attorney in Lafayette County, which led to a position as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. He continued as the City Attorney for his hometown of Lexington, and spent most of his professional career practicing law there.

A veteran of World War II, Bill commanded a company of the 442nd Japanese-American Infantry Regiment in Italy. He received numerous decorations during his tour, including the Silver Star. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after twenty years of service with the United States Army Reserve.

In addition to his outstanding professional and military service, Bill served as the president of the Commerce Bank of Lexington, the Lexington R-5 Board of Education, the Missouri Historical Society, and the Wentworth Military Academy Board. He also served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Lexington.

Aull is survived by his wife Tuni, one son, two daughters, one step-son, one step-daughter, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Martha Bolding Aull.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Aull's public service and military career make him a role model for young civic leaders, and his closeness within the Lexington community will greatly be missed. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this distinguished Missourian.

BREAK THE CYCLE OF PERSECUTION OF IRANIAN BAHAI'S

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, adherents of the Baha'i faith in Iran have lived a precarious and dangerous existence since the religion originated in what was then Persia in the 1840's.

Originally the Baha'i faithful were persecuted by Muslims in Iran as heretics. They were exiled to Baghdad and then to Akka, in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire. As a result, the Baha'i World Center was established in Haifa, Israel, near the site of Akka, where it remains today. From those humble beginnings, today about 300,000 Baha'is live in Iran, with millions more in communities elsewhere around the world. As such,